

The Court Report

^{2nd} Police District January 2009

Building Safer Neighborhoods Through Community Partnership www.DCcommunityprosecution.gov

Summary of Recent Court Cases

Shawn B. Armstead, 37, a former Special Police Officer employed by the District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS"), has been sentenced to 12 months and one day of incarceration, to be followed by 24 months of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment, for taking money from an individual who sought to conduct a for-profit parking business using DCPS property.

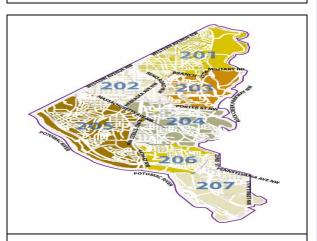
Angela Peaks, a home health aide, has been sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay \$17,980.64 in restitution for her role in selling fake home health aide certificates.

Rex Pelote, Sr., the leader of a local narcotics ring that operated in the District of Columbia, his lieutenant, and four of their street-level dealers have pled guilty to federal conspiracy drug-trafficking charges.

Dr. Joel S. Ganz, a practicing psychiatrist, has been sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and to perform 100 hours of community service for obstructing a health care investigation.

A detailed descriptions of these and other cases from the 2nd District are provided inside of this report.

The 2nd Police District



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2nd District Community Prosecution Update

HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION?

Celebrating the 56th Presidential Inauguration on Tuesday January 20, 2009, was an historical event that will be talked about for years to come. The event was witnessed by well over one million attendees in chilly Washington, D.C., and by millions more through coverage on television and the internet. It was a day filled with a ceremony, guards, salutes, parades, speeches, and Inaugural balls that took place throughout the city. The Inauguration plans were developed by partnerships of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, and despite the frigid temperatures and overwhelming crowds, officers maintained a professional demeanor and helped keep our citizens and our new President safe.

Thank you to all the officers-through all their hard work and effort!

THE COURT REPORT

There are no 2D Press Release for this month.

DISTRICT COURT CASES

Shawn B. Armstead, 37, a former Special Police Officer employed by the District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS"), has been sentenced to 12 months and one day of incarceration, to be followed by 24 months of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment, for taking money from an individual who sought to conduct a for-profit parking business using DCPS property.

FACTS: Armstead received his sentence in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Paul L. Friedman. Armstead, who became a DCPS Special Police Officer in June 2005, and a second DCPS Special Police Officer, Shawn M. Johnson, 38, both of Laurel, Maryland, pleaded guilty in October 2008 to Receipt of a Bribe by a Public Official. Johnson is scheduled to be sentenced at a later date. Both defendants have been terminated from their employment.

"Law enforcement officers hold a unique position of public trust. When that trust is betrayed, much more is harmed than just the reputation of a particular officer. Police corruption harms the entire criminal justice system by undermining the efforts of the vast majority of law enforcement officers who are honest, hard-working, and dedicated to upholding the law," said U.S. Attorney Taylor. "Armstead's conviction and sentence should serve as an important deterrent to any law enforcement official who might consider whether to solicit or accept bribes."

"Police officers who sell their public trust tarnish the badges of all law enforcement officers," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini. "The FBI will continue its relentless pursuit to bring those offenders to justice."

According to the information presented to the Court by the government, the defendants were employed as Special Police Officers by DCPS, a District of Columbia government agency. Their official duties included, among other things, policing school grounds and enforcing various laws and regulations of the District of Columbia, as well as reporting suspected criminal activity and arresting individuals suspected of violating the law.

Between July 2, 2008 and August 27, 2008, the defendants solicited and accepted bribes from an individual who was operating a for-profit parking enterprise in the immediate vicinity of Eastern Senior High School ("Eastern"), a public school operated by DCPS at 1700 East Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C. That individual, who was not affiliated with the school, was charging vehicles to park on school property for events that were held both on and off school property. The defendants first discovered the parking operation on July 2, 2008, when they were dispatched to investigate a function being held on school grounds. The following day, while on duty, the defendants returned to Eastern and accepted approximately \$120 in return for not interfering with the parking operation. Subsequently, the individual who was operating the

parking business contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to report that the defendants had extorted money from him.

Over the next several weeks, the defendants twice made arrangements to obtain bribe payments from the same individual, who had made it clear to the defendants that he intended to operate his parking business on DCPS property without authorization. The defendants initially demanded \$500 a piece for protecting the parking operation from being disrupted. When the individual running the parking operation complained that the amount was too high, the defendants agreed to accept \$650 for both of them. On July 31, 2008, the defendants agreed to meet near Eliot Junior High School, 1830 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C., where they accepted a \$650 cash bribe. When the individual paying the bribe expressed concerns for operating the parking business without DCPS authorization, Armstead replied, "We got you covered."

Subsequently, the defendants raised their "price," demanding \$800 in return for permitting the same individual to operate the unauthorized parking business on DCPS property. On August 27, 2008, outside Eliot Junior High School, the defendants accepted an \$800 bribe, which they split between them. The defendants accepted this money in return for their agreement not to perform their sworn duties as Special Police Officers for DCPS. As DCPS Special Police Officers, the defendants had a duty to take action upon learning that DCPS property would be used without authority. They failed to do so.

Angela Peaks, a home health aide, has been sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay \$17,980.64 in restitution for her role in selling fake home health aide certificates. Peaks, 37, of the 1300 block of Columbia Road, NW, Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty on July 23, 2008, and was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr. on one count of health care fraud.

FACTS: According to the statement of offense, signed by the defendant, the District of Columbia's Medicaid Program pays for home health services to the elderly and affirm. Home health aides typically perform such duties as recording vital signs, preparing meals, helping with basic care, and house cleaning. Home health aides work for staffing agencies, which in turn, bill Medicaid. Medicaid regulations require the home health aides to provide a certificate proving that they successfully completed a 75-hour training program of classroom work and supervised practical training.

The defendant, Angela Peaks, sold fraudulent home health aide certificates to at least five individuals who had not completed the classroom work and the training necessary to earn a legitimate certificate. The buyers contacted Peaks requesting a certificate. Peaks would ask for the buyer's name, Social Security number, and date of birth. In exchange for some amount of money, Peaks would deliver to the buyers the false home health aid certificate, laminated with the buyer's name and Social Security number, as well as certain other documents necessary to obtain a job as a home health aide. Peaks sold the false and forged certificates in the District of

Columbia knowing that they would be used by the buyers to apply for a job as a home health aide.

Rex Pelote, Sr., the leader of a local narcotics ring that operated in the District of Columbia, his lieutenant, and four of their street-level dealers have pled guilty to federal conspiracy drug-trafficking charges. Rex Pelote, Sr., 44, of the 800 block of 21^{st} Street, NE, Washington, D.C., pled guilty in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable James Robertson to conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin. Pelote led a heroin distribution ring that operated in the Langston Terrace Public Housing Complex, which is in Northeast D.C. in the area bounded by the following streets: 21st Street, G Street, 24th Street, and H Street. Pelote's lieutenant in the conspiracy, Edward T. "Bootsy" Farley, 47, of the 2100 block of H Street, NE, also pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin.

FACTS: Several hours earlier, just prior to commencement of jury selection on January 6, 2009, for the trial for all six defendants, four of Pelote's street-level dealers also pled guilty. Charles "Black" McRae, 57, no fixed address, Gerald "Orleans" Anderson, 40, of the 700 block of 24th Street, NE, Dannie "Smiley" Jones, 54, of the 2700 block of Martin Luther King Avenue, SE, and Cornelius "Chuck" Farley, 40, of the 1200 block of Hamilton Street, NE, pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin.

All of the defendants will be sentenced on March 18, 2009, before Judge Robertson. Pelote and Edward Farley are expected to receive sentences of seventeen (17) years and fifteen (15) years, respectively. McRae faces a sentence of six (6) years, Anderson and Jones will each likely receive sentences of five (5) years, and Cornelius Farley will likely receive a sentence of three (3) years.

According to the evidence the government would have presented at trial, between at least April 2007 and April 2008, Pelote controlled an organization that was responsible for smuggling heroin into the District of Columbia, processing and packaging that heroin, and selling it in Langston Terrace, NE. Edward Farley assisted Pelote in distributing the drugs to various runners for street-level distribution. Using various "stash houses" in and around the Langston Terrace public housing complex, the organization processed the raw heroin into street-level heroin. Evidence recovered from search warrants of those stash houses included: secret drug containers (e.g., false-bottom cans), hundreds of small, empty ziplock bags, thousands of dollars in cash, and numerous bags of heroin. The government was also prepared to present audio and video evidence of multiple undercover drug buys from various members of the conspiracy. Further, a court-ordered wiretap revealed telephone conversations between Pelote and his co-conspirators in which they coordinated their extensive drug trafficking activities.

This prosecution is the result of an investigation initiated in early 2007 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Metropolitan Police Department's Safe Streets Task Force into the trafficking of illegal narcotics in the Langston Terrace area of

Northeast Washington, D.C. To date, nine (9) persons have been convicted as part of the investigation. This investigation was supported by the Baltimore-Washington High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area as well as the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Dr. Joel S. Ganz, a practicing psychiatrist, has been sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and to perform 100 hours of community service for obstructing a health care investigation. Dr. Ganz, 73, of Rockville, Maryland, pleaded guilty on August 12, 2008, and was sentenced this afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Rosemary M. Collyer on one count of obstruction of a criminal investigation of a health care offense.

FACTS: According to the pleadings filed in court, the defendant, Joel S. Ganz, is a licensed medical doctor in the District of Columbia, with a psychiatric practice. Beginning in early 2005, he was under investigation for possible fraudulent conduct in billing Medicaid for psychiatric consultation services regarding developmentally disabled group home residents. Dr. Ganz was aware of the pendency of the investigation by late 2006. Sometime within the course of the government's investigation of this matter, Dr. Ganz created medical records "documenting" services provided on behalf of Medicaid residents. These records purported to show that Dr. Ganz provided services to various residents of the group home. However, these records had been created by Dr. Ganz after the fact so as to render them exculpatory. In the spring of 2007, Dr. Ganz caused these false records to be provided to the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia in an attempt to cause the investigation to be closed without charges being brought against him.

Duane McKinney, a District of Columbia man, most recently of the 1000 block of 10th Street, NE, was sentenced to 150 months in prison on charges of fraud, theft, and monetary transactions, announced. McKinney, 36, was found guilty on Thursday, April 17, 2008, of four counts of mail fraud, two counts of wire fraud, three counts of First Degree Theft, and two counts of monetary transactions. He was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Judge Reggie B. Walton to 150 months on the wire and mail fraud counts, 120 months (to be served concurrently) on the monetary transaction counts, and 60 months (to be served concurrently) on the D.C. theft counts. Judge Walton also ordered the defendant to pay \$912,630.75 in restitution and to forfeit to the United States three luxury vehicles and two real properties; the court also ordered two money judgments in the amounts of \$770,872 and \$59,000.

FACTS: U.S. Attorney Taylor, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini, IRS Special Agent in Charge Martin, and DISB Commissioner Hampton also announced the sentencing of codefendant Joe D. Liles, who pleaded guilty on January 16, 2008, to a D.C. charge of false statements. Judge Walton sentenced Liles, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on Tuesday, January 6, 2009, to 180 days, execution of sentence suspended, three years probation, and to pay restitution of \$691,587.

The government's evidence at trial established that Duane McKinney obtained title to about \$1 million worth of D.C. and Maryland properties through forged deeds, that is, deeds which purported to be signed by the owners transferring the properties to McKinney or his shell business. In fact, the deeds were not signed by the owners; the vast majority of the owners were deceased at the time of the forged and false deeds. McKinney was assisted by Joe D. Liles, who would sign his name to these false deeds as the "notary" falsely stating that he saw the owner sign the deeds as grantor and that the owner "personally appeared before him." Once the deeds were notarized, McKinney would then sell the properties as if they belonged to him or his business and would use the money for himself. Some of those who purchased the homes lost all of their purchase money; others whose families owned the homes for generations were required to file suit against McKinney to regain their properties.

Karen Burroughs, a 46-year-old former employee of the U.S. Forest Service, has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for her involvement in a scheme in which she fraudulently claimed over a five-year period of approximately \$282,134 in overtime compensation for hours she did not work. Burroughs, currently residing in the 5000 block of 12th Street, NE, Washington, D.C., was sentenced today by the Honorable Rosemary M. Collyer in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In addition to the prison term, the Court sentenced the defendant to three years of supervised release, and ordered her to make restitution of \$282,134 to the Forest Service. Consistent with the terms of her plea agreement, Burroughs' employment with the Forest Service was terminated.

FACTS: According to the government's evidence, Burroughs was employed by the Forest Service as a management analyst in the Office of Communication, which is located in Washington, D.C. Burroughs has been employed with the Forest Service since August of 2001. Part of Burroughs' job responsibilities in the Office of Communications was to run reports for employee pay and office expenditures.

In about 2003, Burroughs started fraudulently claiming overtime for weekends and holidays for time she did not work. When an employee filled out time and attendance reports, he or she was then required to send the report electronically to his or her supervisor for approval. Burroughs, instead of sending her time and attendance report to her supervisor, sent hers electronically to an employee ("individual #1) who Burroughs supervised, but did not know about the fraud being committed by Burroughs. Once Burroughs sent her time and attendance report to individual #1's computer, Burroughs went to individual #1's computer and fraudulently noted it had been approved by a supervisor Once Burroughs's time and attendance report were noted as approved, they were forwarded electronically to the National Finance Center in the State of Louisiana. The Finance Center then forwarded to Burroughs the resulting pay, including that for the fraudulent overtime claims. For the period from 2003 through July 3, 2008, the amount of fraudulent overtime claims by Burroughs totaled approximately \$282,134.

Burroughs's true supervisor did not become aware of her fraud because of apparent confusion between two supervisors as to who was responsible for reviewing and approving Burroughs's time and attendance reports and neither ever saw the electronic or paper copies of Burroughs's reports. Although Burroughs was responsible for keeping the paper copies of the time and attendance reports in folders for each Office of Communication employee, Burroughs never placed any of her own time and attendance reports in her assigned folder.

On July 10, 2008, Burroughs was interviewed by law enforcement agents regarding this matter. She admitted that she knew that claiming overtime for time that she did not work was illegal and expressed remorse.

William Hedgepeth, a 64-year-old Virginia man, has been sentenced to 70 months in prison for transferring child pornography over the Internet. Hedgepeth, of Falls Church, Virginia, received his sentence in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Richard W. Roberts, who also ordered that the defendant be placed on 120 months of supervised release upon completion of his prison sentence. The Court also imposed a \$12,500 fine. The sentence follows Hedgepeth's guilty plea in October 2008 to Transporting or Shipping Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors and Possessing Material Constituting or Containing Child Pornography.

FACTS: The defendant admitted during the plea proceeding that between February 2007 and March 2008, he engaged in numerous Internet conversations with a Washington Metropolitan Police Detective working in an undercover capacity in which he discussed having sex with young girls. During those conversations, the defendant also transmitted, through the use of Yahoo! Instant Messaging, approximately 20 images depicting child pornography. Specifically, these images showed children who appear to be under the age of twelve, including some under the age of five, engaged in suggestive posing and in various sexual acts with adults.

During a search of the defendant's residence in April 2008, law enforcement officers recovered a computer that contained between 150 and 300 images of child pornography involving prepubescent females ranging in age from approximately three to five years old to young teens. This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Jeremy Slagle, a 22-year-old New Jersey man, Jeremy Slagle, has been sentenced to 84 months in prison for Distributing Material Involving Child Pornography. Slagle received his sentence on Friday, January 9, 2009, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr., who, pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, also ordered that the defendant register as a sex offender for the remainder of his lifetime. Once released from prison, the defendant will be

on supervised release for ten years, and he will not be permitted to work or volunteer with children, nor will he be permitted to use or access the Internet without prior written approval. Slagle entered a guilty plea in this case on October 15, 2008.

FACTS: According to the government's evidence, in December 2007, Metropolitan Police Detective Timothy Palchak assumed the online identity of a cooperating witness. After doing so, Detective Palchak was contacted by Slagle. An on-line conversation between Detective Palchak and Slagle ensued. During the course of the on-line contact, Slagle sent to Detective Palchak via the Internet 33 images depicting child pornography and eight video clips containing child pornography. Slagle sent the images and video clips containing child pornography from his parents' home in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

Law enforcement subsequently executed a search warrant at Slagle's parents' home, and seized Slagle's computer. A search of Slagle's computer revealed over 268 images of child pornography and 21 videos of child pornography. Some of the images of child pornography possessed and distributed by the defendant involved prepubescent minors or minors who had not attained the age of 12 years, and some of the images and videos he possessed portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. The images located on Slagle's computer were taken to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children where they were compared with NCMEC's Child Recognition & Identification System. The analysis resulted in 43 of the images being identified as images of known minors, i.e., under age 18.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

A District of Columbia company that over billed the city's Department of Public Health by more than \$110,000 for services to at-risk teenagers that were never provided has pleaded guilty to Health Care Fraud. The Institute for Behavioral Change and Research, Inc. ("IBCR") entered its guilty plea before the Honorable Paul L. Friedman, U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia. Sentencing is scheduled for March 31, 2009. Under the terms of the plea agreement, IBCR was required to make full restitution by repaying the \$111,172.11 it over billed the District of Columbia Department of Public Health. Checks totaling that amount were turned over to the government at today's hearing. The government and IBCR agreed, in the plea agreement, based on representations made by the company that it lacked the financial resources to pay a fine in addition to the restitution it owed. Under the agreement, the corporation also agreed to pay a \$400 special assessment and serve a 5-year period of corporate probation in which it was required to follow certain provisions designed to prevent it from breaking the law in the future.

FACTS: According to the Statement of the Offense filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office with the Court, IBCR was a not-for-profit corporation whose mission was to provide health care related services and support to children, adolescents and families with emotional and behavioral problems. IBCR received federal and local grants to provide mental health services to children, adolescents and adults through various programs, one of which was the D.C. CITY Program.

As indicated in the Statement of the Offense, after IBCR received a contract in June 2005 with the D.C. Department of Public Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration ("APRA") to provide health care assistance to D.C. youth who were at risk for drug use and abuse, it began submitting invoices for work that was not performed. Between June 2005 and October 2006, 19 of the 22 invoices IBCR transmitted to APRA sought reimbursement of services that were not provided.

Carlos Perla, a 23-year-old Hyattsville, Maryland man, has been sentenced to serve 97 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release for his role in a crack cocaine trafficking offense. Perla received his sentence on January 13, 2009, before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy, Jr., U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Columbia. Perla pled guilty in October 2008 to Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine.

FACTS: According to the government's evidence, on June 25, 2008, at approximately 8:20 p.m., the defendant and an accomplice arrived in a silver, Nissan pick-up truck in the parking lot of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in the 200 block of Riggs Road, NE, Washington, D.C. The defendant was seated in the front passenger seat and his accomplice was driving the car. Upon arriving at the location, the defendant weighed the cocaine on a digital scale and showed the confidential informant the crack cocaine that was inside of a blue plastic bag. The defendant possessed a large black handgun during the transaction.

After the narcotics were shown to the confidential informant, Metropolitan Police Department officers approached the car. Before they placed the defendant and his accomplice under arrest, the officers saw a loaded .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol on the defendant's leg. Additionally, the officers saw the blue plastic bag that contained the crack cocaine between the defendant's legs on the front passenger floorboard. The officers continued to search the vehicle, and they found a red cooler behind the driver's seat. Inside of that container, they found several grams of cocaine hydrochloride. An analysis from the Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Justice - Drug Enforcement Administration revealed that the crack cocaine in the blue plastic bag weighed 63 grams, and the cocaine powder in the red cooler weighed 57.8 grams.

Shawn M. Johnson, 38, a former Special Police Officer employed by the District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS"), has been sentenced to 12 months and one day of incarceration, to be followed by 24 months of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment, for taking money from an individual who sought to conduct a for-profit parking business using DCPS property. Johnson received his sentence this afternoon in

U.S. District Court before the Honorable Paul L. Friedman. Johnson, who became a DCPS Special Police Officer in January 2006, and a second DCPS Special Police Officer, Shawn B. Armstead, 37, both of Laurel, Maryland, pleaded guilty in October 2008 to Receipt of a Bribe by a Public Official. Armstead was sentenced in January 2009 to the same period of incarceration. Both defendants have been terminated from their employment.

FACTS: According to the information presented to the Court by the government, the defendants were employed as Special Police Officers by DCPS, a District of Columbia government agency. Their official duties included, among other things, policing school grounds and enforcing various laws and regulations of the District of Columbia, as well as reporting suspected criminal activity and arresting individuals suspected of violating the law.

Between July 2, 2008 and August 27, 2008, the defendants solicited and accepted bribes from an individual who was operating a for-profit parking enterprise in the immediate vicinity of Eastern Senior High School ("Eastern"), a public school operated by DCPS at 1700 East Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C. That individual, who was not affiliated with the school, was charging vehicles to park on school property for events that were held both on and off school property. The defendants first discovered the parking operation on July 2, 2008, when they were dispatched to investigate a function being held on school grounds. The following day, while on duty, the defendants returned to Eastern and accepted approximately \$120 in return for not interfering with the parking operation. Subsequently, the individual who was operating the parking business contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to report that the defendants had extorted money from him.

Over the next several weeks, the defendants twice made arrangements to obtain bribe payments from the same individual, who had made it clear to the defendants that he intended to operate his parking business on DCPS property without authorization. The defendants initially demanded \$500 a piece for protecting the parking operation from being disrupted. When the individual running the parking operation complained that the amount was too high, the defendants agreed to accept \$650 for both of them. On July 31, 2008, the defendants agreed to meet near Eliot Junior High School, 1830 Constitution Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C., where they accepted a \$650 cash bribe. When the individual paying the bribe expressed concerns for operating the parking business without DCPS authorization, Armstead replied, "We got you covered."

Subsequently, the defendants raised their "price," demanding \$800 in return for permitting the same individual to operate the unauthorized parking business on DCPS property. On August 27, 2008, outside Eliot Junior High School, the defendants accepted an \$800 bribe, which they split between them. The defendants accepted this money in return for their agreement not to perform their sworn duties as Special Police Officers for DCPS. As DCPS Special Police Officers, the defendants had a duty to take action upon learning that DCPS property would be used without authority. They failed to do so.

A Ghanian man was sentenced in the District of Columbia for his role in smuggling East Africans into the United States, Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division Rita M. Glavin. Mohammed Kamel Ibrahim, a/k/a Hakim, 27, a native of Ghana and naturalized citizen of Mexico, was sentenced to five years in prison by U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy and three counts of bringing aliens to the United States for profit.

FACTS: According to his plea, Ibrahim operated an alien-smuggling organization in Mexico City that moved unauthorized aliens from East Africa across the southern U.S. border beginning as early as 2005. In plea documents Ibrahim admitted that between June 2006 and February 2007 he and co-defendant Sampson Lovelace Boateng conspired to smuggle unauthorized aliens to the United States by providing the aliens with fraudulently obtained Mexican visas. The visas, which Boateng obtained through a corrupt employee of the Mexican embassy in Belize, enabled East African aliens to travel into Mexico, then be smuggled across the southern U.S. border by Ibrahim's Mexico City-based organization. According to the plea documents, Ibrahim's organization smuggled the aliens by various means, including by concealing them for more than 12 hours in the sleeper compartments of commercial buses. In pleading guilty, Ibrahim admitted to smuggling between 25 and 99 aliens into the United States.

Ibrahim and Boateng were charged in a 28-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the District of Columbia on Oct. 31, 2007, and unsealed on Dec. 5, 2007. Ibrahim was arrested by Mexican authorities in Mexico City on Dec. 5, 2007, and extradited to the United States on April 24, 2008. Boateng was arrested at Miami International Airport on Nov. 5, 2007, after arriving on a commercial airline flight from Belize. Boateng pleaded guilty to conspiracy and alien-smuggling charges in the District of Columbia on April 22, 2008, and Ibrahim pleaded guilty on Sept. 22, 2008.

Boateng's sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2009. Both men will be removed from the United States upon completion of their sentences.

Charles E. Ingram, 46, a former Smithsonian Institution Museum security guard, was sentenced by the Honorable Ellen Segal Huvelle, U.S. District Court Judge, to 6 months in a half-way house, 5 years of probation, and restitution of \$87,151.22 payable to the U.S. Department of Labor. The sentence arises in connection with Ingram's earlier guilty plea to the crime of False Statement to Obtain Federal Compensation.

FACTS: According to information provided to the court, Ingram had been employed as a museum protection officer by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In May 2001, Ingram reported an on-the-job injury. Based upon the records he submitted the injury rendered him disabled. Because of his disability, in September 2001, Ingram began receiving compensation benefits from DOL's Office of Worker's Compensation Programs. To continue to receive these benefits, Ingram was required to annually submit forms certifying that he was unable to work. Beginning in November 2003, and continuing through February 2008, Ingram submitted forms on five occasions in which he failed to disclose that he was able to work and that he had in fact been employed as an

armed security guard for private security firms. As a result of his conduct, Ingram wrongfully received \$87,151.22 in disability benefits to which he was not entitled.

Christine Rhodes, an employee at the Library of Congress retail store, has been sentenced for stealing money on numerous occasions from the store in fraudulent sales transactions. Rhodes, 61, of the 200 block of Douglas Street, NE, Washington, D.C., pled guilty last year to this offense in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Magistrate Judge Alan Kay. Judge Kay sentenced Rhodes to 30 months of probation, and ordered her to pay a \$1,000 fine and to make \$2,000 of restitution to the Library of Congress.

FACTS: According to the factual proffer of evidence by the government at the plea hearing for Rhodes, with which she agreed, the Library of Congress, which is a part of the federal Legislative Branch whose budget is approved by Congress, serves as the research arm of Congress and has the largest library in the world. Rhodes was a Library of Congress employee in the Library's Retail Marketing Office's store ("the store"). Her title was Sales Counter Attendant. The store sells retail items to members of the general public.

Over a two-year period, Rhodes on a routine basis wrongfully took for her own personal use cash from the cash drawer of the register assigned to her at the store. That is, Rhodes took cash on numerous occasions, approximately \$30 to \$40 on each occasion, over the past two years. Usually, when the store was busy near the end of the business day, Rhodes would not enter into her register the amount of a customer's purchase, but instead would simply take for her own use the money from the purchase. Rhodes, although knowing that her actions were wrong, did so, in part, because she believed that others were similarly pocketing money from sales and there was a certain amount of discontent among employees because they had not received a bonus at the end of the year, although such bonuses had been common in other years.

A second Sales Counter Attendant, John Moore, also pled guilty to a similar series of thefts through fraudulent register transactions. He is scheduled to be sentenced in March of this year.

Henderson Joseph, the former owner of Triad Business Services, has pleaded guilty in connection with a massive tax fraud conspiracy in which the tax preparation service he owned fraudulently sought over half a million dollars in tax refunds for clients. Joseph, 54, of Clarksburg, Maryland, pleaded guilty before the Honorable Richard J. Leon in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to the charge of Conspiracy. The maximum statutory penalty is 5 years of incarceration and a fine of \$250,000.00. Under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which are advisory, Joseph faces a prison sentence of 30 to 37 months of incarceration, a fine, an order of restitution, and a 3-year term of supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for April 15, 2009.

FACTS: The guilty plea arises in connection with Joseph's role as the former owner of Triad Business Services, a local tax preparation service, which had offices in the District of Columbia, Richmond, Virginia, and Baltimore, Maryland. In April 2006, a federal grand jury returned a

nine-count indictment against Joseph, and one of the Triad office managers, Marcelle L. Stephens, for filing fraudulent client tax returns in the tax fraud scheme. Two other office managers, Draphet Moody and Nicole Williams, pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with the government prior to Indictment. Stephens pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate following Indictment.

The guilty plea stems from a massive tax fraud conspiracy, which Joseph masterminded, to obtain fraudulent refunds between 2001 and May 2002 for thousands of clients by falsifying itemized deductions and credits on the clients' U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040. Joseph and his co-conspirators attempted to impede the functions of the Internal Revenue Service and defraud the IRS by filing false tax returns. The fraudulent income tax returns contained inflated or fabricated itemized deductions such as charitable contributions, job expenses, and other miscellaneous expenses to which the taxpayers were not in fact entitled. False credits were also claimed for education and child care.

Joseph worked out of the D.C. office, which Stephens managed. Joseph and Stephens allegedly instructed the other managers, to inflate or fabricate deductions and credits on the clients tax returns, thereby increasing the refunds the taxpayer/clients would receive, increasing Triad's fees, and increasing repeat customers who would return in successive years. All of the tax returns prepared at the Triad offices were reviewed by Joseph and Stephens and then electronically transmitted to the IRS. The IRS has proceeded civilly against the taxpayers whose returns were falsified, seeking repayment of the unlawful refunds, plus interest, and penalties. The taxpayers who lacked documentation for the previously claimed deductions and credits conceded the IRS' assessed tax liability and have repaid the wrongfully issued tax refunds.

"This case highlights that we will aggressively prosecute and hold accountable those who seek to unlawfully obtain money by manipulating our federal tax system. As we approach another tax filing season, taxpayers are reminded to scrupulously review a tax return prepared by their tax return preparer and question any credit or deduction which they did not in fact incur or for which they lack appropriate documentation," said U.S. Attorney Taylor.

"While most tax return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax return preparers file false and fraudulent tax returns to defraud the government, the tax paying public, and their own clients," stated IRS Special Agent in Charge Martin. "The Internal Revenue Service urges taxpayers to be wary of schemes that promise to eliminate taxes or otherwise sound too good to be true." For a listing of the IRS's "Dirty Dozen" common schemes, visit:

 $\frac{\text{http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=}180075,00.\text{html}}{\text{http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=}136337,00.\text{html}\text{http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/}}0,\text{id=}180075,00.\text{html}}$

Mohammed Ngena, 34, of Germantown, Maryland, was sentenced by the Honorable Gladys Kessler to 26 months of incarceration for his role in a conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Ngena pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud before Judge Kessler on July 22, 2008. During the time Ngena was a member of the bank fraud conspiracy, he and his co-conspirators engaged in a counterfeit check scheme by which they sought to defraud financial institutions of more than 300,000 dollars.

FACTS: The evidence established that between May 2004 and August 2004, Ngena and his coconspirators created, deposited and attempted to cash counterfeit checks in Washington, D.C. and in Las Vegas, Nevada. After a failed attempt to cash a \$300,000 counterfeit check in Las Vegas, Ngena and his co-conspirators successfully negotiated a \$15,000 counterfeit check in Washington, D.C. Rather than splitting the proceeds with his co-conspirators as planned, Ngena withdrew the \$15,000 from his account and fled.

Edgar Amos Johnson, a former senior official of the U.S. Department of Interior, pleaded guilty to honest services wire fraud based on a \$10,000 bribe he accepted in return for contacting senior government officials in the U.S. Virgin Islands on behalf of individuals seeking insurance business there. Johnson, 60, of Bowie, Maryland, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable James Robertson. The maximum sentence for honest services wire fraud is 20 years of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gain. Under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Johnson faces a likely prison sentence of between 12 to 18 months. Johnson is scheduled to appear in Court for further proceedings in this matter on April 10, 2009.

FACTS: According to the factual proffer presented by the government in Court, Johnson was the Director of the Technical Assistance Division in the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs. That office provides funding to governments, institutions, and private firms in U.S. territories, including the U.S. Virgin Islands. In his senior position, Johnson had regular, ongoing contact with senior officials in the U.S. Virgin Islands, who trusted Johnson's judgment and recommendations. In August 2007, Johnson accepted \$10,000 in return for agreeing to contact senior officials in the U.S. Virgin Islands on behalf of individuals seeking insurance business from the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands. After accepting the bribe, Johnson emailed a senior official in the U.S. Virgin Islands recommending individuals for insurance business.

Adriane Osuagwu, formerly of Pittsburgh, California, was sentenced to a term of 22 months in prison in connection with a scheme to extort a married local physician who had engaged in an extra-marital affair. Osuagwu received his sentence in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Rosemary M. Collyer, who also ordered that the defendant be placed on 36 months of supervised release upon completion of his prison term and that he pay

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restitution in the amount of \$178,809. In November 2008, Osuagwu pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Extortion.

FACTS: At the prior plea hearing, Osuagwu admitted that he is a citizen of Nigeria who came to the United States in 2001. Osuagwu admitted that in February 2006, he and his former lover, Queen Nwoye, discussed a plan to extort a married local physician, who had once engaged in an extra-marital affair with Nwoye, who was also married. At the time of their affair, which had already ended, the physician's wife was an official with the Nigerian government.

In furtherance of the plan to extort the doctor, Nwoye called the doctor to tell him that she had told one of her cousins about her affair with the doctor, and the cousin – who actually was Osuagwu – wanted to speak to the doctor. The doctor reluctantly called the cousin, i.e., Osuagwu, who then demanded payment from the doctor in exchange for not informing the doctor's wife and the medical board about his affair with Nwoye.

During the course of the conspiracy, from February 21, 2006, through April 10, 2006, the doctor made six separate payments, totaling \$185,000, to Osuagwu and Nwoye. Although Nwoye was responsible for personally picking up several of the payments or receiving wire transfers into her bank account, financial records showed that Osuagwu kept \$174,000, while Nwoye kept \$11,000, of the proceeds from the extortion scheme.

In November 2007, Queen Nwoye was found guilty by a federal jury of conspiracy to commit extortion and sentenced in June 2008 to a term of 20 months in prison.

U.S. Attorney's Office Website

The United States Attorney's Office maintains a website with additional information concerning Office personnel and activities. The website is www.DCcommunityprosecution.gov.

The Following Report, Titled "Papered Arrests"
Contains Details on Arrests and Charges Filed Against
Defendants in the Second District.

| PSA | ARREST DATE | CCN | PAPERD LEAD CHARGE & AUSA'S NAME | DEFENDANT'S NAME | PAPERED CASES | SECTION ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION OF OFFENSE |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| | 01/10/2009 19:15 | 09004673 | ROBBERY JONATHAN P. HOOKS | SMITH, DASHEEM S | 2009CF2000880 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 1351 19TH ST NW |
| 202 | 01/03/2009 14:40 | 09001228 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | BERDA, JOSE | 2009CMD001741 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 5300 BLK OF WISCONSIN AVE NW |
| | 01/06/2009 09:30 | 09125898 | THEFT FIRST DEGREE STEPHANIE G. MILLER | ELLERBE, TWANNA | 2009CF2000430 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 5028 Wisconsin Ave, NW |
| 202 | 01/07/2009 09:30 | 09125898 | THEFT FIRST DEGREE STEPHANIE G. MILLER | VINES, YVONNE | 2009CF2000509 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION |
| 202 | 01/14/2009 13:40 | 09006390 | THEFT FIRST DEGREE STEPHANIE G. MILLER | TERRY, GREGORY M | 2009CF2001362 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 4330 48th Street, NW |
| | 01/21/2009 22:35 | 09009867 | Assault (Felony) ERIN O. LYONS | BOYD, DELANTE A | 2009CF2001766 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION |
| | 01/21/2009 22:35 | 09009867 | Assault (Felony) ERIN O. LYONS | MORGAN, ANTONIO A | 2009CF2001767 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 4513 WISCONSIN AVE NW |

| PSA | ARREST DATE | CCN | PAPERD LEAD CHARGE & AUSA'S NAME | DEFENDANT'S NAME | PAPERED CASES | SECTION ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION OF OFFENSE |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| | 01/27/2009 00:30 | 09012434 | ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON DARIA J. ZANE | JETT, WILLIAM E | 2009CF3002031 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 4555 Wisconsin Ave, NW |
| | 01/10/2009 03:05 | 09004358 | SIMPLE ASSAULT MARGARET B. HONRATH | FREEMAN, PETER J | 2009CMD001924 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 2400 WISCONSIN AVE NW |
| | 01/12/2009 20:40 | 09005619 | SIMPLE ASSAULT IGNACIO PEREZ DE LA CRUZ | SHENKUTE, TIBEBE Y | 2009CMD001057 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 5255 LOUGHBORO RD NW |
| | 01/30/2009 06:15 | 09084266 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | RUNTE, JULIE | 2009CMD002359 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 5165 Macarthur Blvd NW |
| | 01/04/2009 11:00 | 09001617 | THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM -MISD RHONDA T. REDWOOD- RAY | COSTEN, DONALD E | 2009CMD000295 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1855 WISCONSIN AVE N.W. |
| | 01/10/2009 01:30 | 09004333 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE CRAIG T. FESSENDEN | ROGERS, LOUIS J | 2009CMD000842 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1617 P Street, NW, WDC |
| | 01/18/2009 02:15 | 09008130 | POSS OF A CONTROL SUBSTANCE -MISD IGNACIO PEREZ DE LA CRUZ | O'MEARA, TYLER J | 2009CMD001563 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 1600 Wisconsin Ave NW |

| PSA | ARREST DATE | CCN | PAPERD LEAD CHARGE & AUSA'S NAME | DEFENDANT'S NAME | PAPERED CASES | SECTION ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION OF OFFENSE |
|-----|---------------------|----------|--|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| 206 | 01/26/2009 15:00 | 09007341 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | DANIELS, CALVIN | 2009CMD002078 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1419 WISC AVE NW |
| 206 | 01/26/2009 16:00 | 09007341 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | CLARK, TINOTA N | 2009CMD002077 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1419S Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC |
| 206 | 01/27/2009 12:00 | 09006484 | ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON ERIN O. LYONS | BANKOLE, OLUNIYI | 2009CF3002123 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 1365 wisconsin ave, nw, wdc (BT&T bank) |
| 206 | 01/27/2009 17:15 | 09012602 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | CASSION, LESTER H | 2009CMD002148 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1267 WISC AVE NW. Washington, DC |
| 206 | 01/27/2009 17:21 | 09012602 | THEFT SECOND DEGREE | EVANS, GEORGE W | 2009CMD002146 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT GAP Store at 1267 WISC AVE NW, Washington, DC |
| 207 | 01/17/2009 13:15 | 09-00541 | ASSAULT WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON GEORGE P. ELIOPOULOS | BURKE, TONY | 2009CF3001576 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 500 blk 21 St NW |
| | 01/18/2009 23:00 | 09008054 | SIMPLE ASSAULT IGNACIO PEREZ DE LA CRUZ | VANDERHYDE, JONATHON C | 2009CMD001608 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 2555 Pennsylvania Ave NW |

| PSA | ARREST DATE | CCN | PAPERD LEAD CHARGE & AUSA'S NAME | DEFENDANT'S NAME | PAPERED CASES | SECTION ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION OF OFFENSE |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| 207 | 01/22/2009 19:00 | 09010306 | POSS OF A CONTROL SUBSTANCE -MISD | NILSSON, JOHN K | 2009CMD001833 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 514 19TH STREET NW, Washington, DC |
| | 01/04/2009 03:10 | 09001517 | SIMPLE ASSAULT KIMBERLY M. SHARTAR | POLLEY, EVAN L | 2009CMD000280 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT Rumors Nightclub, 1900 M STREET NW, Washington, DC |
| 208 | 01/07/2009 15:00 | 09003001 | SIMPLE ASSAULT TERRY EATON | THOMAS, JOSEPH A | 2009CMD000617 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1990 K ST NW |
| | 01/08/2009 21:18 | 09000805 | POSS OF A CONTROL SUBSTANCE -MISD | BARNO, ULYSSES | 2009CMD000741 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION NEW JERSEY AT WARNER ST, NW, WDC |
| | 01/08/2009 21:30 | 09000805 | CARRY PISTOL W/O LIC - OUTSIDE HOME/BUSINESS MAGDALENA A. ACEVEDO | MASSEY, PLESHETTE R | 2009CF2000739 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, FELONY UNIT NEW JERSEY AVE AT WARNER ST,NW, WDC |
| | 01/13/2009 11:15 | | FRAUD FIRST DEGREE-FEL KATHERINE A. WORTHINGTON | POSTELL, DOMINIQUE D | 2009CF2001141 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 1069 Wisconsin Ave, NW |
| 208 | 01/18/2009 18:30 | 09008357 | RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY-MISD | PRATT, MICHAEL | 2009CMD002302 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION 1250 U Street, NW |

| PSA | ARREST DATE | CCN | PAPERD LEAD CHARGE & AUSA'S NAME | DEFENDANT'S NAME | PAPERED CASES | SECTION ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION OF OFFENSE |
|-----|---------------------|----------|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| | 01/19/2009 05:25 | 09008583 | DEFACE PRIVATE/PUBLIC PROPERTY | ABDELILAH, KAMAL J | 2009CMD002318 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1609 17TH ST NW |
| 208 | 01/26/2009 10:15 | 09012266 | DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY LESS THAN \$200 | DOBSON, MICHAEL A | 2009CMD002074 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 6-7 DUPONT CIRCLE NW |
| | 01/28/2009 01:30 | 09165155 | BURGLARY TWO ERIN O. LYONS | FEGGINS, MORRIS | 2009CF2002248 | SC, FELONY MAJOR CRIMES SECTION 1155 21ST ST. NW Apt. 210 |
| 208 | 01/29/2009 11:50 | 09057941 | SIMPLE ASSAULT | PRICE, LENWOOD B | 2009CMD002353 | SC, GENERAL CRIMES SECTION, MISDEMEANOR UNIT 1500 K St NW |